

**Unit 2 Cromac Wood  
Ormeau Road  
BELFAST  
Tel: 028 9051 2000  
Fax: 028 9051 2050**

**north**

January 2, 2002

Rebecca H. ...  
Unit Attorney  
Antitrust Division  
Department of Justice  
601 ... Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney Hesse,

Please accept these comments in support of the settlement proposal in the Microsoft antitrust case. I support the arrangement agreed to by the government attorneys and Microsoft to end the litigation, and impose certain sanctions and competitive protections. I do not support any further intrusion into the private marketplace as is sought by Microsoft's competitors. The agreement serves the public interest; the increased sanctions sought only serve special interests.

Millions of us in private industry, as well as consumers at home, use and appreciate Microsoft's products. We are also not unaware of the competitive nature of the information technology business. Microsoft no doubt plays rough, but so do its many competitors. It does not seem to me that any monopolistic force is at work in that very volatile market. The free-market system appears alive and well.

The antitrust laws are an important protection for American consumers and the economy as a whole. It is good that the Justice Department acts when it perceives a violation. And it is even better when they recognize it is time to compromise and settle. That time is now.

Sincerely,

*Patricia Dyck*  
Patricia Dyck

**Canal Street, Lawrence, Massachusetts 01843  
Tel: (978) 686-2907**